

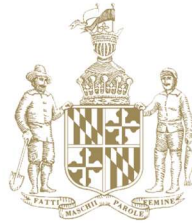
**PAUL D. CORDERMAN**  
*Legislative District 2*  
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

February 24, 2026

Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
Chair Guy Guzzone  
Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony In Support of SB 638 - Natural Resources - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority -  
Funding and Grants**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 638. SB 638 will affirm certified Heritage Areas are powerful engines for local economic development, tourism, and community pride by strengthening the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority's ability to fund planning, management, revitalization, and ensuring these programs remain sustainable and accountable while continuing to preserve the stories and places that define our state.

SB 638 provides practical updates to funding flexibility and oversight, allowing resources to be used more effectively without losing focus on approved management plans. The enhanced transfer authority and clear parameters for operating and debt service expenses will help stabilize projects and maximize the impact of Program Open Space funds.

From Harford County's Vulcan Quarry Trail to Washington County's historic Maryland Theatre, Maryland Heritage Areas have provided critical funding for projects that touch every corner of our state. SB 638 helps give more flexibility and opportunity for these projects to continue positively impacting our shared citizenry.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 638.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. D. Corderman".

Senator Paul D. Corderman – District 2, Washington & Frederick Counties